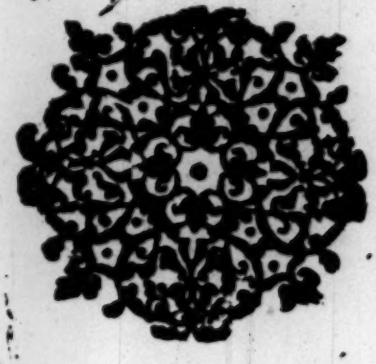
THE PENNILES PARLIAMENT OF Threed-bare Poets:

OR,

All mirth and witte Conceites.

George Peevers.



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1608.

Heere beginneth the Penniles Parliament of threed-bare Poets.

FIrſt of all, for the increaſe of euery Foole in his humour, wee thinke it neceſſarie & conuenient, that all ſuch as buyes this Booke, and laughes not at it before he hath read it ouer, ſhall be conuemned of Melancholy, and be adiudged to walke ouer Maze-fields twiſe a weeke in a foule Shirt, and a payre of Bootes, but no Stockinges.

It is alſo agreed vpon, that long Beaſted men ſhall ſeldome proone the wiſeſt: and that a Niggards purſe ſhall ſcarce bequeath his Maiſter a good Dinner: and becauſe Water is like to proone ſo weake an element in the worlde, that men and women will want Teares to bewayle their ſinnes, wee charge and commaunde all Gardners to ſow more ſtore of Onions, for feare Widdowes ſhould want moyſture to bewayle their Husbandes Funerals.

In like maner we thinke it fit, that Red-wine ſhould be drunke with Oyſters: and that ſome Maydens ſhall bluſh more for ſhame, then for ſhamefulnes: But men muſt haue care, leaſt conuerſing too much with Red-Petticoates, they banniſh their Haire from their heads, and by that meanes, make the poore Barbers beggers for want of worke.

Furthermore, it is lawfull for those Women, that every morning taste a pint of Pulkadine with Egges, to chide as well as they that drinke small Beere all the Winter: and those that clippe that they should not, shall haue a Horse-nightcap for their labour: Gentlemen that sell Land for Paper, shall buy Penurie with repentance: and those that haue most Golde, shall haue least Grace: some that meane well, shall fare worse: and hee that hath no Credite, shall haue lesse Commoditie.

It is also ordered and agreed vpon, that such as are coloricke, shall neuer want woe and sorrow: and they that lacke Pony, may fast vpon Frydayes by the Statute: and it shal be lawfull for them that want Shooes, to weare Bootes all the yeare: and he that hath neuer a Cloake, may without offence, put on his best Gowne at Midsommer; witnes old Prime the keeper of Bed-lem Dicing-house.

In like manner it is agreed vpon, that what day soeuer Pauls Church hath not in the middle Ile of it, either a Broker, Parlter-les-man, or a Penniles-companion, the Vsurers of London shall be sworne by Oath to bestow a new Steeple vpon it: and it shall be lawful for Conny-catchers to fall together by the eares about the foure Knaues at Cardes, which of them may claime superioritie; and whether False Dice or true, be of the most antiquitie.

Furthermore, Wee thinke it necessary and lawfull, for the Husband and Wife to fall at square for seperatitie, in such sort, as the Wife shall sit playing aboue in the Chamber, while the Husband standes painting below in the Kitchin: Likwise wee markt all Brokers to be Knaues, by Letters Patents; and Vsurers for fine

Markes

Starkes a peece, shall lawfully be beaten into Chamomill, though they have bequeathed their Carkises and bones to the Diuell in Hell.

In like manner it is thought good, that it shall be lawfull for Shoemakers in Gunpowder Alley, to make their Shaftes of commodities; and Scriueners shall be contented to seruice any man for his Fees: Butchers shall sell Flesh on Fryday cheaper then Lyeuers, and such as sell Beere in halfe-penny pots, shall utter Bread and Cheese for Penny through the whole Yeare: and those that are full Honest and Shame, shall smile at Sinne: and they that care not for God, preferre Money before Conscience.

Furthermore, it shall be lawfull for Foote Boyes (by the helpe of Mooneys Hames) to flie about without wings; and poore men shall be accounted knaues without occasions: those that flatter least, shall serue most: and Piggys (by the Statute) shall weare the Britches with Bels about their necks, to the wonder and amazement of all Swinehards.

In like manner is it conuenient, that many men shall weare Hoodes that haue little Learning: and some surfet so much vpon Wit, and Diuine so long against the Streame, as their Meales shall fayle them: some shall buylde fayre Houses by Bybles, gather much Wealth by Contention, and before they be aware, heape vp Riches for another, and Wretchednes for themselues.

Furthermore, it shall be Established, for the benefite of Increase, that some shall haue a Timpanie in their

that shall know his owne father?

Nor shall it be lawfull for any man to have a Pallace in their Countrey, such as ours, that shall stand more than one age, but when it is ruinous, it shall be lawfull for any man to build it new, and whosoever shall hinder or offer to gainsay it, shall be fined from their wages: some such stopping in their hearts, as they shall be presently abhominable to their Governours for stopping of their breath: for they shall breathe according to their wages: some shall build Pallaces, as if all the buildings without them were Cottages: and some shall be so Needy, as neither Parents nor Heyres shall get their owne, but poore Orphans their Patrimonies.

Also in the Eastern and Western part there shall be so many Inns, that the Villages, as they cannot stop the Roads from Travellers, so they cannot keep their Guests: some shall keep a good house to bleed strangers: some is disguised in purse, as they cannot allow one penny to buy their dinners on Sundayes: some for modesty runne into debt, as they cannot agree about the last badge of their occupation.

But among other Labors Statutes by us here established, we thinke it most necessary and commendable, that poverty shall not hinder plainesse, poverty by true forme, then their Garments and Apparell with a Good Conscience: also it is ordered and agreed upon, that Millers, Victuallers, Butchers, & Brewers, shall fall to a mighty Conspiracie, so that no man shall either

either haue Bread, Fire, Meat, or Drinke, without em-
bite or ready Mony.

Sicophants by the Statute shall haue great gifts,
and Good and Godly Labours shall scarce be worth
thanks: it is also thought necessary, that Maides about
midnight shall see wondrous visions, to the great hart-
griefe of their Mothers.

Furthermore it is marked & set downe, that if Law-
yers plead poore mens causes without mony, west min-
ster Hall shall grow out of custome, to the great impo-
verishing of al Nimmers, Lifters, & Cutpurses. Those
that sing bales shall loue good drinke by authority: and
Trumpeters that sound trebles shall fare by custome:
Women that weare long Gownes, may lawfully rayse
dust in March: and they that keepe a Temperate Dyet
shall neuer die on surfets.

In like manner it shall be Lawfull for Saylors and
Souldiers, to spend at their pleasures, what they get by
their Swords: and if the Treasurer pay them any thing
beyond count and reckoning, if they build not an Hos-
pitall therewith, they may Bestow it in Apparrell by
the statute.

It is further established and agreed vpon, that they
that drinke too much Spanish Sacke, shall about July
be serued with a Fiery face: but Oh you Ale-knights,
you that deuour the Marrow of the Vault, and Drinke
whole Aletubs into Consumptions; that sing Queene
Dido ouer a Cup, and tell Strang Newes ouer an Ale
pot: how vnfortunate are you, who shall Pisse out that

which you haue ſwallowed downe ſo ſweetly: you are vnder the law, and ſhall be awarded with this Puniſhment, that the rot ſhall infect your Purſes, and eate out the bottoms ere you be aware.

It is alſo agreed vpon, and thought Neceſſary, that ſome Womens Lippes ſhall ſwell ſo big, as they ſhall long to kiſſe other men beſide their Huſbands: others cheekes ſhall be ſo monſtrous out of frame, as they cannot ſpeake in a iuſt cauſe without large fees: ſome with long Tongues ſhall tell all thinges which they heare: ſome with no Braines ſhall meddle much and know little: and thoſe that haue no Feete, may by the Statute goe on crutches.

Furthermore, it is conuenient and thought meete, that Ale ſhall exceede ſo farre beyond his bounder as many Stomackes ſhall be Drowned in Licour, and thereupon will follow the Dropſie, to the great benefit of all Phiſitions: it is lawfull for ſome to take ſuch purgatiue Drugs that if Nature help not, the Wormes in the Churches in London, ſhall keepe their Chriſtmas at Midſommer in their Bellies: but Tailors by this meanes, ſhall haue more Conſcience: for where they were wont to Steale but one quarter of a Cloake, they ſhall haue due Commiſſion to nicke their Cuſtomers in the Lace, and beſide their old fee, take more then enough for new fashions ſake: but now touching theſe following Articles, we are to Aduiſe Old Men to looke with Spectacles, leaſt in finding ouer many wiſe lines, they ware blind with reading.

But now touching the benniſit of Priuate Houſes,

by

by our rare and exquisite Judgements, wee thinke it very commodious, that those Warrien Men of weakest Witte, and worse Courage, should prouide themselues of good Weapons to defend themselues from Assaults, which shall Assaile them about Midnight: And it shall be Lawfull for all Wiues to haue a Masculine Courage, in such sort, that they who haue had their willes to this houre, shall haue the Maistrie all the yeare after: and those Husbandes which doth not valiantly resist them, shall bee Awarded to pay a Sheepes head to their next Neighbour, in Pennaunce for their folly.

As by our prouident iudgements we haue seene into theise lamentable miseries, incident in these partes of the world, so for the reformation thereof, we do ordaine and enact: that the Oyle of Folly, shall proone a present remedy for a shrewd Housewife, accounting Socrates for a flat Foole, that suffered his Wife to crowne him with a Pilpot: Ordayning, that all those that giues their Wiues their owne willes, to be Fooles by act of Parliament.

Also it is further established and agreed vpon, that Elder Calues shall indite Butchers Knives of wilfull murther: and whosoeuer will proue a partiall iurryman, shall haue a hot Sheepes skinne for his labourre. Bow bell in Cheapeside (if it breake not) shall be Warrented by Letters pattents to Ring well: and if the Cundet heades want no water, the Tankers-bearers shall haue one Custard more to their solemne dinners, then their vsuall custome.

Moreouer, it is thought good, that it shall be lawfull for all Cripe-wiues to be exquisite Phisitions, for in one Stall they shall find more Simples, then euer Gallen Gathered since he was Christened: Beside, if Dancers keepe not Tide and Time in their measures, they shall forfeite a fat Goose to their Teacher for their slender iudgement. The French Morbus by Commission, shall be worth three Weekes Dyet: and they who haue but one Shirt to Shift them withall, may by the law straine curtesie to weare a fowle one vpon the Sunday: Also our Commission shall be sent forth for the increase of Hempe, as not onely Vplande ground shall be plentifully stored therewith, but also it shall so prosper in the high wayes as the stalkes thereof shall touch the top of Tyborne.

In like manner we thinke it is necessary and conuenient, that there shall be great noyse of Warres in Tauerns, and Wine shall make some so Clamorous, as they will destroy Tyrone and all his power at one draught: also we thinke it meete, that there be craft in all Occupations, and those that are Penitent in this World, shall haue comfort in a better: Silke-weauers by the Statute, shall prosper well, if they wash their handes cleane on Fasting dayes, for otherwise in soyling their Worke, they shall loose their Worke-maisters: Dawes by Authority shall leaue Building in Steeples, and dwell in Cities: and such as are cunning in Musicke, shall know a Crotchet from a quauer: but let such Men as instruct Youth, be very Circumspect, for if they learne more then their Maisters can teach them, they shall forfit their Wittes to those that bring them vp.

Fur-

Furthermore, we thinke it most Necessary and Conuenient, that the Generation of Iudas should walke about the World in these our latter dayes, and sell his Neighbour for Commoditie to any man: but the Vsurers shall be otherwise disposed, for hauing Monthly taken but a Penny in the Shilling, euer since they began first their Occupation, shall now with a good Conscience venter vpon three Pence with the Aduantage: besides, many Men shall proue themselues apparantly Knauish, and yet in their owne opinions will not be soe: and many women shall imagine that there are none fayrer then themselues.

Moreouer, for the further increase of Foolish Humours, we doe Establish and set Downe, that Fantasticke Deuises shall proone most Excellent, and some shall so long deuise for other men, that they will become Barraine themselues: some shall Deuise Nouelties to their owne shames; and some snares to intrap themselues within.

In like maner we thinke it most necessary, that those that be Fortune tellers, shall shut a Knaue in a circle, and looking about for the Diuell, shall find himlockt in their owne Bosomes: Atheistes, by the Law, shall be as Odious, as they are Carles: and those that depend on Destiny, and not on God, may chaunce looke through a narrow Lattice at Foote-mans Inne: But my deere friends, the Grocers are plentifully blessed for their Figges and Reasons may allure faire Lasses by Authority: yea many men by the Statute shall be so kind harted, that a kisse and an Apple shall serue to make them Innocentes.

It is further agreed vpon and eſtabliſh, that many ſtrange euents ſhall happen in theſe houſes, where the Wyfe is preualent with her Maiſter, and wants a Miſtreſſe to looke narrowly vnto her.

Alſo we thinke it conuenient, that ſome ſhall take, their Neighbours bed for their owne: ſome the ſeruant for the Maiſter: and (if Candles could tell tales) ſome will take a Familiar for a flea. Alſo we thinke it meete, that there ſhould be many Fowlers, who in ſtead of Larkes will catch Lobcrabbes: and many for want of wit ſhall ſell their Freehold for Tabacco pipes, and red petticoats. Likewiſe we thinke it conuenient that there ſhould be many Takers; ſome would be taken for wiſe men, who indeed are very Fooles: for ſome will take crakt Angels of poore debters, and a quart of Malmeſie when they cannot get a pottle.

But ſtay a while, whether are we carried, leauing the greateſt Lawes vnpublished, and eſtabliſhing the leſſe; therefore we enact and ordaine as a neceſſary Statute, that there ſhall great contentions fall betweene Souldiers and Archers, and if the fray be not deſided at a pot of Ale and a blacke Pudding, great bloodſhed is like to enſue: for ſome ſhall maintaine that a Turke can be hit at twelue ſcore Pricks in Fiendsbury fields, Ergo, the bow and ſhafts wan Bullen: other ſhall ſay that a Pot-gun is a dangerous weapon againſt a Pudwall, and an enemy to the painters mayde: amongſt theſe controuerſies wee will ſend forth our commiſſion to God Cupid, being an Archer, who ſhall deſide the doubt, and proone that Archery is Heauenly, for in meditation thereof, he hath loſt his eyes.

Oh gentle fellow Soulsiers, then leaue your controuerſies if you loue a Woman, for I will proue it, that a Mince Pie is better than a Pusket; and he that dare gaine-say me, let him meete me at the Dagger in Cheape with a Caſe of Pewter-Spoones, and I will anſweare it: and if I proue not that a Mince-pie is the better Weapon, let me Dine twice a Weeke at Duke Humpheries table.

It is furthermore eſtabliſhed, that the ſoure Mannes at the Cardes, ſhall ſodainely leape from out the bunch, and Deſperately Prance about the new Play-houſe, to ſeeke out their old Maiſter Captaine Crop-eare: alſo it is thought meete, that ſome men (in theſe dates) ſhall be politicke beyond reaſon, and write more in one line, then they can proue in an age.

Furthermore it ſhall be Lawfull for ſome to Study which way they may walke to get them a Stomacke to their meat, whilſt other are as carefull to get meat to put in their bellies: likewiſe there ſhall be great perſecution in the Common-weale of Kitchin-ſtuffe, ſo that ſome deſperate Woman ſhall boyle, try, and ſeeth poore tallow to the generall commoditie of all the whole company of Tallow Chandlers.

Alas, alas, how are we troubled to thinke on theſe dangerous times: for Taylors, by Act of Parliament may Lawfully inuent new fashions: and he that takes Irish Aquauite by the Pint, may by the law ſtumble without offence, and breake his Face: and it ſhall be thought conuenient, that ſome be ſo deſperat bent, as

they

they shall goe into my Lord Maiors Buttery when all the Barrels be full, without either Sword or Dagger about them: many Men shall be so Courteously giuen, as they shall go into Petty-coate lane, and yet come out againe as honestly as they went first in.

In like manner it shall be lawfull for Tems Water to Clense as much as euer it did in times past: and if the Brewers of London buy store of good Malt, poore Gentlemen at Queene-hithe shall haue a whole Quart for a penny: Saint Thomas Onions shall be sold by the rope at Billingsgate by the Statute: and Semsters in the Exchange shall become so Cautionable, that a man without offence, may Buy a Falling Band for twelue pence.

It shall be lawfull for Smithes to loue good Ale, and if it be possible to haue a Frost of three weekes long in July, men shall not be afraide of a good fier at Midsommer: Porters Baskets shall haue authority to hold more then they can honestly Carry away: and such a Drought shall come amongst Cans at Bartholmew Faire in Smithfield, that they shall neuer continue long filled.

The Images in the Temple Church (if they rise a-gaine) shall haue a Commission to digge downe Chasing Cradle with their Fauchions: and Millers by Custome shall haue small mind to Morning Prayer, if the Wiuues serue them in any Corner on Sundaies: Those that goe to Market and can get nothing, may come Home, Poope by Authority: and those that play

fast

fast and lose with womens Apron-strings, may chaunce make a journey for a Winchester Pidgion: for prevention thereof, drinke every morning a draught of Noli me tangere, and by that meanes, thou shalt be sure to escape the Physitions Purgatorie.

But amongst all other Decrées and Statutes by us here set downe, wee ordaine and commaund, that these things (if they be not parted) ever to continue in perpetuall amitie, that is a Louse in an olde Doublet, a painted Cloath in a Painters shop, and a Fools and his Bable.

Furthermore it shall be lawfull for Bakers to thrive by fine things: that is, Scrapes well payed, and Millers that are honest.

Phisitions by other mens harmes, and Churchyardes by often Mortals.

Lastly, wee thinke it necessarie for the Commonwealth, that the Summer shall be better sealde in Fishstreete, then the Weare shall be at Billingsgate.

And Partes-men amongst the company of Hearbeliners, shall be worth as much money as they can get for it by Statute.

Yet is further enacted and agreed upon that those that runne foure score Pyle a foote on a Winters day, shall have a faire shirt about seaven of the cloche in the morning.

And such as are inclined to the Dropsie, may be lawfully cured, if the Phisitions knew how.

Also wee ordaine & appoint, that (if there be no great store of Tempestes) two halfe-penny loaues shall be sold for a penny in White-chappell.

Chaucers Bookes (by act of Parliament) shall in these dayes, proue more wittie then euer they were before: for there shall so many sodaine, or rather sodden Wittes steppe abroad, that a fire shall not frisk forth, vnlesse they cemment on her.

O what a detestable trouble shall be among women about foure score and ten yeares olde, for such as haue more Teeth about them, then they can well vse, shall die for age, if they liue not by miracle.

Also it shall be lawfull for Bees, if the Hommer them not, to goe on Pilgrimage, and fly so farre in one day, as who so sets vp a land marke where the first light, shall come to vs and haue a pound waight of Gold for his diligence and labour.

Moreouer, wee thinke it necessarie, that those that haue two eyes in their head, shall sometimes stumble: and they that can neither write nor read may as boldly forsweare themselues, as they that can.

And it shall be lawfull for Almanacke makers, to tell more lyes then true tales.

And they that goe to Seas without Victuals, may suffer

ſuffer penurie by the Statutes.

In like manner, it ſhall be lawfull for any man to carry about him more Golde then Iron: if hee can get it.

But they that are giuen to fullen cõplexion (if they be Females) muſt be more circumſpect: for if they repent their hidden ſinnes ſo much, they may chaunce catch heauen for their labour.

Therefore let Maydens take heede how they fall on their backes leaſt they catch a fourth wiues fauour.

And he that hath once married a Shrew and by good chaunce buries her, beware how hee come into the ſtocks againe.

Further it ſhall be lawfull for thoſe that be Rich, to haue many Friendes: And they that be Poore, may by authoritie keepe Money, if they can get it honeſtly.

Alſo, we commaund and charge all ſuch as haue no Conſcience, to doe their worſt, leaſt they die in the Diuels debt: As for the reſt they that haue more money then they need may helpe their poore Neighbours, if they will.

In like manner it ſhal be lawfull for ſuch as are ſubiect to hot ſtomackes to drinke cold drinke. And thoſe that haue a minde to inrich Phiſitions, to be neuer without diſeaſes.

Alſo, Soulders that haue no meanes to thriue by playne dealing, may by the Statute ſwallow downe an ounce of the ſyrrop of Buttſtetis euery morning: And if they cannot thriue that wayes, wee thinke it neceſſarie, that foure times in the yeare, they goe a fighting on Salſburis plaine.

Furthermore, for the benefite and encreaſe of luſtie Yeomen, wee thinke it neceſſarie, that thoſe our deare friends which are ſworne true Seruitours to Mounſeur Pantables, ſhould haue this order ſet downe, that you ſuits your ſelues handſomely againſt Eaſt ſraft: and if you meete not a faire Lade betwixt Paules & Stratford, that day, wee will beſtow a new ſuite of Sattin vpon you, ſo you will beare all the charges.

But as for your deare friendes and Scholliers, thus much wee fauour you, for you ſhall dine vpon Milt by authoritie: and if you pay your Hoſteſſe well: it is no matter though you ſcore it vp till it come to a good round ſumme.

In like manner, it ſhall be lawfull for Maydes milke to be good Phiſicke for their beaſts: and a cup of Sacke to bedward, a preſent Remedy for the Mother,

Such as are ſicke in the ſpring, may take Phiſicke by the Statute: And thoſe that are cold, may weare warme Clothes, without offence.

It is beſt to ride, in long iourneyes, leaſt a man bee weary with going a foote: And more comely to goe in Broken ſtockings, then bare legged.

Further,

Further it shall be lawfull for some to be loose, because they cannot be fat.

Some by the Statute shall love Cats passing well, because they can come by no other meate and other some shall keepe it with an Egge at dinner, that very manfully sat upon a shoulder of Veale in the kitchin.

Some shall be sad when they want Money: and in love with Widdowes rather for their wealth, then their beautie.

It is also thought necessarie, that some shall inquest their Wittes at home, because they themselves play fooles abroad.

And some love Howling Alles better then a Sermon.

But above all other things, Spirits with Apples shall much disturbe your sleepes about midnight.

Furthermore, it shall be lawfull for him that marries without Money, to have foure bare Legges in his Bed: And he that is too prodigall in spending, shall die a beggar by the Statute.

In like manner he thinks it necessarie, that he that is plagued with a curst wife, to have his pate bloke quarterly, as he payes his rent.

Likewise, he that delights in subtilties, may play the Knave by custome: And he that hath his complexion and

courage ſpent, may eate Mutton on Faſting dayes by the Lawe.

And to conclude, ſince there are ten Precepts to bee obſerued in the Arte of Scolding, wee humbly take our leaue of Duke Humfries Ordinarie, and betake vs to the Chappell of Ill Counſaile where a quart of two of fine Trinidado, ſhall arme vs againſt the Gun-ſhot of Langemettle, and keepe vs ſafe from the aſſaults of Sir Iohn Find-fault, *Vale*, my deare Friends, till my next returne,

FINIS,

Imprinted at London for w. Barley,
and are to be ſolde at his ſhop,
in Gratious ſtreete.
1608.

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